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THE CHINESE SITUATION.

If left alone, China is probably able to work out her own salvation by establishing a republican form of government; but outside interference is now threatened which may complicate the situation very seriously. The latest reports state that Mongolia and Chinese Turkestan are to declare their independence, and in this the hand of Russia is readily recognized. Russia has already absorbed all the independent countries of Central Asia and nothing could prevent her from including this Chinese territory with the rest if one it becomes nominally independent and therefor not included in treaties or international agree ments to maintain the integrity of China.

This would bring Russia and Japan face to face along a new boundary line, which would not make for lasting peace between them. Russian methods of pacifying conquered territories belong to the days of Tamerlane and other bloodthirsty conquerors who came out from the heart of Asia, and whose blood Russia has inherited and shows today in Persia. Sooner or later there would be eause for war and China would always be in

As the United States is committed in various ways to maintain the integrity of Chinese te.

tory, this latest move on the part of Russia will cause great anxiety in Washington, for Russia will not listen to reason when spoken by the president of this country. Of course, the United States will not and cannot do anything to keep these provinces from throwing off their allegiance to China, but there are few who believe that this alleged move for independence is anything more than a Russian ruse. As yet no absolute confirmation of the report has been received.

Freed from Manchu rule and influenced by the example of Japan, China may wake up in a fashion that will give Russia a greater surprise than she received that famous morning in the Yellow Sea. If China becomes a great military power and threatens the supremacy of the Caucasian races in Asia some day in the future, it will be another illustration of the old proverb about let-

ting sleeping dogs lie,

Both China and Japan lay asleep until the the middle of the last century. They asked only to be let alone. Their peoples did not go outside their own boundaries except to trade, and they excluded foreigners from their territories except at specified trading posts on their coasts. Their soldiers were armed with bows and arrows and they were powerless to attack others. Then the United States woke up Japan, and England and France committed one of the foulest crimes in history by ramming opium down Chinese throats at the cannon's mouth. The sleepers stirred in their slumbers. The Chinese came in foreign ships to California and the Japanese armed themselves with modern weapons. Now the white race faces "the yellow peril" in America and Australia, and Japan adds her name to the list of the world's greatest military powers. White men started these snowballs rolling down the mountain side, and are now beginning to stand aghast at the enoromus size and almost irresistible force of the little things they let loose so earclessly less than popular. History teaches some useful lessons. sixty years ago.

SHERWOOD PENSION BILL.

President Taft is being importuned to veto the Sherwood pension bill, which passed the house by a fairly non-partisan vote and still hangs fire in the senate, but it is worth while to inquire who are doing the importuning. The author of the Sherwood bill is a democrat, and more than half the democrats in the house, i cluding Speaker Clark, voted for it. Nearly all the Southern newspapers are asking the president to veto the bill.

Not one of them will support him for re-election, whether he vetoes it or not. In the north the newspapers that are most elamorously demanding a veto are opposed to the president's reelection. The La Follette crowd are not saying a word. They are prepared to denounce whatever the president does. Now a large majority of the old soldiers who will be benefited by the Sherwood bill are republicans. Should be veto it at the instigation of his opponents he will alienate a considerable support and gain nothing from the editors who are vociferously telling him what

That pension bill is being cut down. It should

be out out.

RIGHTS VERSUS CUSTOMS

Appalling are the possibilities shadowed by the revelation of the readiness of women in the state of Washington to avail themselves of the traditional but heretofore largely neglected "right" of proposal in leap year. It would seem that the recent political enfranchisement of women in the northern coast state has given them a taste for the prateice of rights, even to the extent of experimenting with a leap year privilege. Show the tendency become general in that state, and not elsewhere, Washington will be one of the most interesting regions in the world next year.

Theoretically, the adoption of the custom will but place women and men on an equal basis, but the really distressful thing about theories, bear ing upon all sorts of things, is that the harsh and unkind facts of life and nature are wont to

interfere with the application.

Past customs act upon present form of existence and conduct, and conditions are not readily changed in any specified desired fashion by the amendment of statutes and constitutions, nor even by popular edict. As this truth applies in poliical and industrial affairs, as it applied through all biological processes, so must it apply also to any attempt to put into general practice the leap year tradition.

By slow stages of psychological development, through the years since first, in civilized countries, woman was given in some degree the negative right in choosing her mate, she has developed a generally graceful and kindly manner of assuring an undesired suitor of her eternal sisterly affection. Incidentally, she has acquired a certain ability in the employment of positive, though indirect, methods of choosing her mate.

To all of this, through all the years, man has adjusted his own nature.

And now

Imagine the average young man, ardently sought in marriage by some spirater accustome t to having men obey her slightest request as a matter of course and common courtesy, trying to assure his suitor that he will be a brother to her for life! Imagine him murmuring kindly that he never dreamed—that he is so sorry—that it is impossible that they ever should be more to each other than friends.

All of which, verily, would be entirely in conformity with the recognized rights of women, lo! these many years; but would woman, seizing the leap year rights, serenely recognize the rights man to make such formal response to her plea?

Alas! In the mating process, as in the affairs through which men make their living and adjust their relations to each other, customs are formed by courses of events rather than by the asserting of "rights." And eustoms swept awa are wont to be followed by conditions of charather than by new and ingeniously devised enstoms which "natural rights" or "human rights theorists would have society put on like a suit a

AN ACCOUNTING SHOULD BE COMPELLED

The Stockton Mail advises the labor unions to demand a complete accounting of the money contributed for the defense of the McNamara brothers. Every dollar contributed should be checked up, says the Mail, and the men who had the handling of it required to show what was done with it. Well, why not? If the money was honestly expended for legitimate purposes why should there be any objection to an accounting? Why are the men through whose hands this money passed so reluctant to show what they did with it? Our Stockton contemporary intimates that some of it stuck to the fingers of the men who have been living in idleness and luxury at the expense of honest workingmen who actually toil. The suspicion is justified by the circumstances. The obstinate concealment of the details of expenditure is alone suspicious. Somewhere along the line there is a rotten place in the business, and the sooner the real workingmen locate it the better. They can do themselves and unjon labor no better service than to find out precisely what became of the money. If they have been putting up for a lot of grafting rogues the sooner they find it out the better for the cause of labor and the honest administration of the law.

The New York Herald urges that the demoerats hold their national convention in Gotham, Does the Herald want the delegates to blow out the gas or is it trying to do the green goods men

A Massachusetts legislator has introduced a bill for secreey in certain criminal trials. Some of his arguments sound plausible, but England once had a Star Chamber court which was not

Apostle Recd Smoot has recommended his colleague, Senator Sutherland, for appointment to the United States supreme court. It is now in order for Hon. John Doolittle Works to propose some Christian Science candidate,

Prosecutions for buying and selling votes in the Middle West seem to show that New Yorkers rather than their guests, would be endangered by evil communications at national party conventions.

Battling Nelson is getting used to being licked, but he still takes his share of the gate money. As long as the game pays Bat will stay in it.

Rev. Richeson's fiancee sent him a bouquet of flowers on Christmas Day. Well, flowers are equally suitable at a wedding or a funeral.

Why should England interfere to save Persia from the Russian bear? England is going to take a slice herself.

"There ain't no ten commandments" east of Snez for either white men or white nations.

Since the Russian treaty discussion began several hundred paragraphers have discovered that trouble is bruin with the Bear,

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